

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /047 W

----- 069834

R 220502Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3503

IMJDH/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 4569

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USWO PEKING 361

UNCLAS TAIPEI 6986

USIAC

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - LEADING TAIPEI DAILIES DID NOT SEE ANY SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS COMING OUT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S FAR EAST TRIP, BUT FELT IT MAY ENHANCE HIS POLITICAL STATUS AS NEGOTIATOR. PAPERS SAW SELECTION OF VLADIVOSTOK AS SOVIET ATTEMPT UPSET U.S.-PRC DETENTE. OFFICIAL KMT CENTRAL DAILY NEWS SAW TRIP AS A REASSURANCE ON IMPORTANCE OF ASIAN PACIFIC REGION. END SUMMARY.

2. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (280,000) NOVEMBER 19 IN FRONTPAGE COMMENTARY SAID PRESIDENT FORD'S FAR EASTERN TRIP, DESPITE OPPOSITION AT HOME, WAS DESIGNED PROVE HIS DIPLOMATIC ABILITY IN SOLVING WORLD ISSUES. NOVEMBER 20 FRONTPAGE COMMENTARY SAID U.S. MILITARY SUGGESTED FORD VISIT ROK AS WARNING AGAINST NORTH KOREA'S MILITARY THREAT. EDITORIALY, PAPER SAID NOVEMBER 19 FORD'S VISIT WILL NOT EASE TANAKA'S POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES, BUT WILL ENCOURAGE

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ROK GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE. PAPER SAID VLADIVOSTOK

MEETING ITSELF IS A MEANS, NOT AN END, SINCE SITE WAS PURPOSELY PROPOSED BY THE RUSSIANS FOR ITS EFFECT ON MAOISTS. PAPER SAW THE TRIP BOOSTING FORD'S STATUS AS A NEGOTIATOR AND HIS REELECTION CHANCES. IT MAY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY AND FREEDOM IN THE REGION.

3. KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (220,000) NOVEMBER 18 SAID FORD'S JAPAN VISIT MEANT U.S. REASSURANCE ON IMPORTANCE ASIAN PACIFIC REGION. ALSO HAS SIGNIFICANCE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL READJUSTMENT FROM TRADITIONAL U.S. "EUROPE-FIRST" POLICY. PAPER HOPED VISIT WILL STRENGTHEN U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATION SINCE THE MAOISTS AND SOVIETS ARE TRUE ENEMIES OF DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES.

4. CHINA DAILY NEWS' (80,000) TOKYO CORRESPONDENT HUANG CHIN-LIN NOVEMBER 19 DISCUSSED LUKEWARM JAPANESE OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD FORD'S VISIT ALTHOUGH FORD WAS FIRST PRESIDENT VISIT JAPAN. HUANG THOUGHT FORD USING TOKYO AS TESTING GROUND FOR NEW FOREIGN POLICY.

5. MIN TSU EVENING NEWS (60,000) NOVEMBER 18 THOUGHT THE VLADIVOSTOK CONFERENCE WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF FORD'S FAR EAST TOUR. PAPER SAID FORD'S TOKYO STOP MIGHT SATISFY SOME JAPANESE SENSE OF VANITY AND NATIONAL PRIDE; WAS NOT AIMED AT SUPPORTING TANAKA BUT RATHER AT MAINTAINING STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST JAPAN.

6. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA POST (30,000) NOVEMBER 21 SAID AMERICAN OBSERVERS BELIEVE TOUR IS MORE SHOW THAN SUBSTANCE, AND THAT LANDSLIDE DEFEAT IN RECENT U.S. ELECTIONS CAST DOUBT ON ABILITY OF FORD ADMINISTRATION TO FULFILL ANY COMMITMENTS THAT MIGHT BE AGREED UPON IN SUMMIT TALKS. SELECTION OF VLADIVOSTOK APPEARED BE DELIBERATE MOSCOW ATTEMPT UPSET U.S.-PEKING DETENTE, WHICH MANY PEOPLE THINK CAN NEVER BECOME REALITY, WITH SOVIET UNION INTENSIFYING EFFORTS EXTEND INFLUENCE IN ASIA. VLADIVOSTOK CANNOT BUT BE INTERPRETED AS A HOSTILE ACT BY PEKING. THERE NO DOUBT U.S. CONFRONTED WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR ITS FAR EAST POLICY AND THAT SOLUTIONS REQUIRE HIGH DEGREE WISDOM AND DIPLOMATIC SKILL.

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## Message Attributes

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